

Official Match Magazine 12p

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VERSUS

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TUESDAY, 26th OCTOBER, 1976

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

A very warm welcome to you all.

I am sure that with two such good footballing sides in contention you will have a memorable evening.

The magnificent achievement of the team in getting to the last sixteen of such a prestigious competition is an opportunity for us to show you that Swansea City is alive and well and in terms of quality football, what many of you have been missing these past few months.

The Club, in common with most Football League clubs, has had serious financial problems, but by having the honesty to admit them earlier rather than later - by not yielding to the temptation (as in the case of some other clubs) of sweeping those problems under the carpet we have managed to make more progress towards a solution than most clubs with similar difficulties. Indeed, this Board's achievements over the past eighteen months have been considerable. During this relatively short period a first class management and administration has been established, the Commercial Department has made remarkable progress and the youth policy inaugurated when I became Chairman is now proving to be one of the most successful in the country, as evidenced by the fact that possibly three of the players from that youth policy could be playing in this side tonight, and there are many more exciting prospects just waiting their opportunity. Indeed, I am very proud to be Chairman of a Board whose courage and integrity has not deflected them from carrying out policies in which they believe and which have steadfastly refused to yield to pressure which was calculated to destroy an institution that has been providing League Football in Swansea for over sixty years. The achievements of the Club during that period have played a significant part in placing this City on the map both nationally and internationally and your attendance here tonight and the very warm support the Club has been receiving these past months from so many well-wishers proves that the Board's effort has been very worthwhile.

A very enjoyable evening to you all.

MALCOLM STRUEL. Chairman

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Standing, Left to Right :- Philip Owen, T.D., Q.C., M.A. Oxon; Robert Jones; Ivor Pursey, M.B.E.; William Floyd; Peter Walters.

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IN OPPOSITION TODAY

JIM McDONAGH

Position: Goalkeeper

Just signed from Rotherham. Made his debut against Partick Thistle last week in the Anglo-Scottish quarter-final. Signed to succeed long-serving goalkeeper Barry Siddall.

JOHN RITSON

Position: Full back

Club skipper. Born in Liverpool and came to Bolton from schoolboys soccer. Graduated through junior sides and is now a strong defender who likes to attack down the flank.

TONY DUNNE

Position: Full back

Eire international who played for most of his career with Manchester United. Member of the European Cup winning side and since coming to Bolton has proved to be a favourite with the fans.

PAUL JONES

Position: Centre half

Called on by England manager Don Revie to join the Under 23 squad — last season he had a trip to Budapest with them. A commanding player in the middle of the defence and very good in the air.

SAM ALLARDYCE

Position: Centre half

Born in Birmingham, Sam is one of the "finds" of last season. His first full campaign emerged as an outstanding defender and was voted "Player of the Year" by the Wanderers' supporters.

MIKE WALSH

Position: Utility

Joined Bolton from school. Just come into first team reckoning and is equally at home in midfield or at full back.

PETER NICHOLSON

Position: Midfield/Defender

Formerly with Blackpool, he moved to Bolton to make his debut last season. A strong tackler who can move forward powerfully when in possession.

ALAN WALDRON

Position: Midfield

Unable to earn a regular place in the side last season but always challenging strongly. A speedy, skilful player, he spent the summer in America where he played for Chicago Stings.

BRIAN SMITH

Position: Midfield

Hard-working player who is pressing hard for a regular first team place. Made a few appearances last season.

ROY GREAVES

Position: Midfield

Has completed 10 years with the Wanderers and had a testimonial game in the close season. A non-stop worker and one of the few players to come from the Bolton area.

PETER REID

Position: Midfield

Another young player who came to the front last year. Discovered playing for Huyton schoolboys and graduated through the junior sides to win a regular place in the first team. "Reads" the game well and is a fine passer.

WILLIE MORGAN

Position: Winger

Started with Burnley, then moved to Manchester United for a big fee. He returned to Burnley and was signed by the Wanderers towards the end of last season. A Scottish international and member of the last World Cup squad.

PETER THOMPSON

Position: Winger

Former Liverpool and England winger who has won most of the honours in the game. A very clever player, he is another firm favourite with the supporters.

STEVE TAYLOR

Position: Centre forward

Lively, fast moving attacker who is making rapid progress in the club after playing briefly for Port Vale last season on a loan transfer.

NEIL WHATMORE

Position: Striker

Strong attacker with a flair for scoring goals. Hit 13 last season to become the club's joint top scorer. Powerful in the air.

GARRY JONES

Position: Striker

Manchester born Garry had his best season for some time during 1975/76, scoring 13 goals. A strong running attacker who has the ability to put pressure on defenders.

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MANAGER'S NOTES

We've waited a long time for this game. Bolton Wanderers, a team of traditions that reflect the history of football itself, tonight provide us with the biggest Cup game we have seen at the Vetch Field since the visit of Arsenal in 1968.

I hope that the occasion lives up to its promise - and I'm sure it will. I have watched Bolton home and away on several occasions recently: from those experiences I am certain of one fact . . . any team managed by Ian Greaves comes to play football.

They have some famous players such as international wingers Willie Morgan and Peter Thompson, busy goalscorers in Neil Whatmore and Steve Taylor skilled mid-field players and probably the finest centre-half outside the First Division in Gary Jones.

And, of course, it was the First Division that was waiting to receive them last season until they slipped over the final weeks of the season. They are bidding for promotion again this campaign and, let on one be in any doubt, they are a side of the highest quality and calibre.

I am confident that we can take on such opponents and 'live' with them. My policy as a manager is to encourage Swansea's players to attack with confidence. I do not want players afraid to take responsibility or reluctant to adopt the adventurous, entertaining approach.

We are still developing . . . but the standards are there. That is why I go into this evening's League Cup tie looking for two things: a fine match and a big crowd.

Our players deserve support for the way they have been playing. I am sure that the challenge of both the occasion and the opposition will bring out their best - and I hope that best will be good enough to keep as permanent supporters many of those who will be visiting the Vetch Field for the first time in several years.

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- 2 Wyn EVANS
- 3 Danny BARTLEY
- 4 George SMITH
- 5 Eddie MAY
- 6 Dave BRUTON
- 7 Pat LALLY.
- 8 Robbie JAMES
- 9 Alan CURTIS
- 10 Jeremy CHARLES
- 11 Les CHAPPELL
- 12 To be announced

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- 1 J. McDONAGH**
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- 3 M. WALSH**
- 4 R. GREAVES**
- 5 P. JONES**
- 6 S. ALLARDYCE**
- 7 W. MORGAN**
- 8 N. WHATMORE**
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MICHAEL BOON

Sunday Express Sports Columnist

writes

After 291 minutes of controversial, headline-charged League Cup combat, Bolton Wanderers striker Neil Whatmore shot on the tum from a Steve Taylor centre and the ball smashed into the back of Fulham's net. At last the opponents to face Swansea this evening had emerged.

The publicity had been mounting by the day - stoked by the fact that Fulham are parading three of the great names of British football, Bobby Moore, Rodney Marsh and George Best. Yet, despite all the publicity and the great names, it is the more settled of the two teams which has arrived finally at the Vetch Field.

Bolton's players came within a point of regaining their former First Division status last season. At the back of their minds this evening must be the fact that it was an F.A. Cup entanglement with Newcastle United that was generally reckoned to have cost them promotion then!

The first game ended 3-3, the second 0-0 and the third was lost 1-2 on 23 February. That date is still ringed with black in many a calendar hanging on the walls in the homes of Bolton supporters: not only did it mean the end of Wembley dreams . . . but, almost certainly, the end of promotion too.

Of the next 14 matches, they won just five. Not even Bolton's position of almost unassailable authority in the Second Division could stand that kind of battering - and three of those five wins came in the last four games when the position was almost beyond recall.

It is a curious co-incidence that Bolton have been engaged in much the

same kind of long drawn out duel already this season. After a 2-1 win at Bradford in the second round with the busy Whatmore finding the net both times, they were drawn at Fulham in the third round.

That ended 2-2 and so did the second game at Burden Park after one of the most controversial finishes to any match this season. According to those present, injury time seemed to have expired with Fulham leading 2-1. But the one man whose decision is final in these matters, had the stop watch that counted and, in the last seconds of added-on time, Mike Walsh equalised.

After extra time had failed to provide a solution, the tie moved on to the neutral pitch of St. Andrew's, Birmingham, last Monday night. Centre-half Paul Jones - an immensely dangerous extra attacker from set-piece situations - headed in a Willie Morgan corner to put Bolton ahead, Peter Nicholson chested an Alan Slough centre into his own net for the equaliser . . . and then came Whatmore's winner.

Certainly victory fits in to the new era that manager Greaves is forging successfully at one of the best known grounds in British football. Burden Park is the famous home of great players and memorable traditions. It is against the backgrounds of men like Nat Lofthouse, years of First Division success and seven F.A. Cup Finals (winning four of them) that manager Greaves is rebuilding a new Wanderers.

He has found one bright new marksman this season to boost his promotion drive, Steve Taylor. His experience last season consisted of eight games for Bolton (five of them coming on as substitute) and four on loan to Port Vale. This season he and Jones are joint top scorers with seven goals apiece.

Bolton's modest away record in the League is the reason why they are not contesting the top of the table with Chelsea. A win at Notts County and a point at Plymouth have been their only successes.

★ STAR VISITOR: PETER THOMPSON

Peter was a player about whom England could never quite make up their mind. He is one of the last survivors of an age when players, especially attackers, went out and did what came naturally. In his case, magical dribbles that took over all over the pitch.

His 'crime' was that he was not a player who manager Sir Alf Ramsey could rely on to conform. Yet it was just that priceless talent which football needs so badly today.

When Peter was at his dazzling best for Liverpool, at around the time England were winning the World Cup, the team masterminded by Sir Alf was at its peak. Then it could afford to do without an unpredictable near genius — indeed, the only international that Peter played in World Cup year was against Northern Ireland.

His England career started with two matches against Portugal in 1964, flared to life several times in the next six seasons and finally finished when he came on as a substitute against Holland in 1970. He ended with a commendable 16 'caps' but there was always the feeling that England had neglected just the kind of player who should have been encouraged in the modern era.

After being one of the great favourites of the decade at Liverpool, for whom he played 322 games, he moved to Bolton — and has played there with remarkable consistency. He missed just four League games last season, created a spate of golden openings and very nearly helped lift Bolton back into the First Division.

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Player Portrait - ALAN CURTIS



There's no one happier - discounting half the population of Liverpool! - than Alan Curtis to see that John Toshack is back from injury and scoring goals. In Alan's seven games for Wales so far, the longest that they've ever been partners was for 70 minutes against England last May.

"We had ten minutes together against Yugoslavia in Zagreb and about 20 minutes in partnership against Yugoslavia at Cardiff. It's no co-incidence that the best game I've played for Wales was against England - working with 'Tosh' is a tremendous experience.

"You know, for a start, that he's going to win 60-70 per cent of the ball in the air. That opens up chances. You also know that defenders are going to be watching every move he makes and that gives you more time and space."

Alan's great hope now is that manager Mike Smith will link them as a front striking partnership against Scotland at Hampden Park next month in the first Wales qualifying game in the World Cup. "I'm sure that we can get a result there, especially if we can field our strongest side."

Alan's hardest international was his last match against West Germany. Toshack was out through injury and manager Smith made the Swansea striker the lone front runner with Leighton James and Mike Thomas operating on the flanks. "I don't think I've ever had a tougher assignment.

"They put a man on me, had a sweeper behind him and then Franz Beckenbauer sweeping behind the sweeper! Bearing in mind that I'm not a target man in the first place, it was something of an uphill fight. Yet I enjoyed it and worked as hard as I could to get the line going."

Alan played at Hampden Park in the Home Championship last May, again without the bonus of Toshack alongside. "We had a virtual second choice side out and, although we lost 1-3, I didn't think that the Scots beat us convincingly. We can go back there next month with real confidence of getting our World Cup programme away on the right foot."

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We apologise for not including Statistics in this Magazine due to lack of space, but we assure you that up to date statistics will appear in our next Match Programme.

Man in the Middle - JACK TAYLOR (Wolverhampton)

Commenced refereeing in 1948 in local leagues and graduated via the Birmingham League to the Football League - now serving his 22nd. year. In addition, he has been on the U.E.F.A. and F.I.F.A. Referees' Panel for many years. He refereed the 1974 World Cup Final - Holland v. West Germany - and was on the World Cup panel in England (1966) and Mexico (1970). He has visited 38 countries and refereed in over 70 International and U.E.F.A. Cup matches, and was in charge of the 1971 European Cup Final at Wembley, as well as our F.A. Cup Final (1966), the F.A. Amateur Cup Final (1962) and the Football League Cup Final in 1976. He was awarded the O.B.E. for services to football in '75. He is married and a self-employed butcher. Is a Magistrate in Wolverhampton and a member of the Sports Advisory Council. Serves on several committees and the Birmingham F.A. Is Chairman of a Charity Cup Committee, President of a local Sunday League and on the board of Governors of a local school.

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From MICHAEL BOON, Sunday Express Sports Columnist in Wales

This is the biggest occasion - at least in terms of inter-club football - that the Vetch Field has enjoyed for a long, long time. Apart from a game or two against Cardiff City in the Welsh Cup, no First or Second Division team has visited the Vetch Field in a competitive match since Arsenal played an F.A. Cup tie here in 1968.

I am not sure whether this is some kind of record for a club in the Third or Fourth Divisions . . . if it is, it's one that no rivals will envy. The draws for eight years of Football Association and Football League Cups can seldom have conspired to work so unjustly against one club.

Remember that tie against Arsenal and the players who took part in it? All of them now retired or, so sadly in the case of Roy Evans and Brian Purcell, dead. The board of directors has changed almost twice and the manager that day, Bill Lucas, has been succeeded by Roy Bentley, Harry Gregg and Harry Griffiths. It is, in football terms, a couple of decades back in time. One factor has remained constant: this club has stayed anchored in either the Third or Fourth Divisions. One issue to be answered this evening against opponents of a very high calibre indeed - they came so close to regaining First Division status last season - is how real are the current prospects of starting the climb back to the Second.

Harry Griffiths regards the Second Division as "this club's rightful home"; he believes that he is now in sight of completing a squad good enough to get there. I saw Bolton play at Cardiff earlier this month. They were two goals ahead and finally lost rather unluckily . . . or, in the words of manager Ian Greaves, "we threw it away."

That is as maybe. What is beyond argument, even at Ninian Park, is that Bolton arrived with a side badly hit by injury and still looked good enough throughout the first half of scoring a convincing victory. They come to the Vetch Field this evening with references of a very high standard: First Division quality players and First Division quality football.

Something else I'm sure about: at no time since that Arsenal game eight years ago has a Swansea side (it was Swansea Town then - I almost forgot!) been better equipped to deal with opponents of such calibre. Experienced, skilled older players: exciting, talented younger ones. This is a game that will answer a great many questions.

One of the many abilities of Trevor Morris is his persuasive way of putting words together. Never has that quality been better illustrated or put to more effective use than in Zurich a week ago. Make no mistake about it: the success in getting the European Championship ban on Wales lifted belongs to Trevor Morris and Trevor Morris alone.

Goodness only knows how it would have worked out if Morris had not been so convincing. Apart from the end-of-season British Championship which is well short of being enough to keep Welsh football financially viable, international football would have been almost forgotten.

Another thought is what would have happened to manager Mike Smith? With almost nothing to aim at for all those years, he could hardly have been expected to continue with the fine job he is doing for the game. A manager has to have challenges: without them, the attractions of the job drop away.

So, in the end, Morris won and the hooligans lost. Welsh football must see to it that there is no return match: next time the effects would be catastrophic.



BOLTON WANDERERS 1976



ALAN CURTIS challenges Brentford defence with Jeremy Charles in close support.



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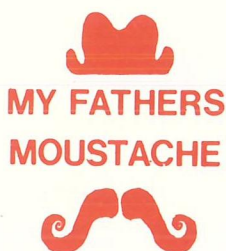
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